

Date: February 8, 2021  
Time: 6:45 – 8:45 pm  
Location: Remote Participation, via Zoom

**Agenda:**

1. **Zoom protocols (5 mins)**
2. **Review of mission statement and group meeting protocols (10 mins)**
3. **Brief Introductions (15 mins)**
4. **Guests: (30 mins)**
  1. **Anna Litten, Arlington Reads Together**
  2. **Juli Brazile, Town Survey Language Translation**
5. **Plan to create DTG subcommittees (30-40 mins)**
6. **Approve January minutes (5 mins)**
7. **Parking warrant and housing bills updates: Laura (10 mins)**
8. **New business brought by members (5-15 mins)**

**Minutes:**

In attendance: Katell Guellec, Rebecca Gruber, Brooks Harrelson, Louise Popkin, Juliana Brazile, Elizabeth Dray, Kellye Eversole, Anna Litten, Rajeev Soneja, Michaiiah Healy, Drake Pusey, Marian King, Judith Garber , Chris DiMeo, Laura Kiesel, Shafaq Islam, Anna Henkin, Kevin Heaton

Zoom protocols were reviewed, as well as the DTG mission statements and guidelines for respectful dialogue. When reviewing protocols, it also was mentioned that we will do better tracking of time to stay on agenda.

Introductions and two words describing your state of mind coming into tonight's meeting: tired, hopeful, overwhelmed, motivated, focused, happy, calm, hassled, sleep-deprived, over-worked, cold, frazzled, distracted, curious, entrepreneurial, exhausted, worried, optimistic, excited, cautiously optimistic, wondering.

Anna Litten spoke about this year's Arlington Reads Together. DTG has been an important partner in Arlington Reads Together, and **Anna asked us to share the program out, especially the link to the calendar of programming.** Anna will also provide us a little blurb to share on our social media. The title chosen is Why Are the All the Black Kids Sitting Together in

the Cafeteria by Dr. Beverly Tatum. The full calendar of programming is at:

<https://robbinslibrary.wordpress.com/2021/02/05/art>. The book is a lot about communication with people like you and not like you. Dr. Tatum, the author, will be speaking March 21. True Story Theater will be doing an interactive workshop about identity, who we are, where do we come from, and thinking about race. Margaret Thomas, the coordinator of Arlington's Metco Program will be speaking. YW Boston, which has experience doing anti-racism work, is moderating a book discussion. Wee the People will be doing an anti-racist program for kids. Tim Hall, of "Dad Did", will be our music performer. Kudos to Anna Litten for organizing this great programming. Anna specifically said this title was picked to help our community lean into what is happening in our society now. For more information, Anna can be reached at [alitten@minilib.net](mailto:alitten@minilib.net). Anna also will be asking us to help share information about the Arlington Elevates program in the next few months.

Juli Brazille spoke about the need to get out the Annual Town Survey. This year they are trying to provide interpretation / translation help for anyone who needs it to complete the survey. The Town is looking for names of people who could help with interpretation / translation. Questions were asked about the most common languages spoken in Town outside of English. Another question was about what translation needs APS has and also whether the APS has translation abilities that they might be able to provide to support; not sure if possible in the near term, but is being considered for future projects. Since the survey is for residents ages 15 and up, maybe some High School students might be willing to help (especially for community service credit). Residents of the AHA are also in need of translation services. The original deadline for the Survey was March 1, but may be extended by a week.

Subcommittees: A way for our energy and ideas to continue in a more structured way outside of the monthly meetings. Ideas for subcommittees:

- Communication outreach -- energy and time in creating a system of outreach that could be used by different Town committees, e.g., like rolling out the Annual Town Survey. Especially systems for the parts of our community that are marginalized or disconnected.
  - From AHRC's experience, what we learned is that it's hard to build a communication relationship if there's no specific need, but it is easier to engage in outreach when there is a need. AHRC is going to have a focus on housing since there is a significant intersection of marginalized, BIPOC residents with housing concerns, and hopefully will develop communication channels through this focus.
  - Is it a communication outreach problem or a recruiting problem? Find representatives of the community we want to be able to reach out to and recruit them to offer advice for best methods for outreach.
  - Is this a larger effort than just DTG? Is this a Town responsibility with a paid employee?
  - Is there a trust issue for the information to be gathered and held by the Town?
  - DTG of all the Town groups has done the best at trying to create a safe space. DTG is a big tent group, and it doesn't require any commitment from participants, but then participants don't have any accountability.

- Interest groups might be for a more specific, targeted, time-bounded deliverable.
- DTG is a starter. What is DTG's role? What is its position in the eco-system? What is DTG's way of working that is the source of its unique superpower? Future discussions required about this.

January Minutes approved: A motion was made to approve the minutes, it was seconded. 11 Yeas, 0 Nays.

Katell will send to December and January meeting attendees a copy of the letter sent to Adam Chapdelaine about our concerns regarding last month's meeting's recording. Katell feels the matter is over, but has not heard final closure from the Town's side. A question was asked about whether the recording of the January meeting has been deleted. A participant said that she was told that the recording had been deleted.

Two years ago DTG worked with Laura Kiesel to pass a warrant article for a waiver from the Town's parking ban. The parking ban particularly impacts renters, and especially marginalized, BIPOC, disabled members of the renter community. The warrant article passed. In a recent resident petition for a waiver, the program pertinent to the warrant article was 1) not mentioned at all by the Select Board nor the Arlington Police Department. 2) On the Town's website, the Program is very difficult to find out about, and 3) it only pertains to cars with a handicap plate, and excludes handicap placards. Laura is asking DTG to help remedy these three issues. It was suggested that Laura write a letter to the Town Communications Director asking for a date by which the Town's website be updated, and that she ask for the Select Board to make a resolution to include handicap placards.

Laura Kiesel and Judith Garber have two housing warrant articles:

- Affordable housing units in new development would be 1 out of 4 instead of the current 1 out of 6.
- Affordable Housing Trust Fund would be changed to be eligible for those making 60% AMI which is more in line with folx with housing vouchers, Black, and Latinx than the current 100% AMI.
- Laura is hosting a panel on housing justice on her YouTube channel on February 23rd with endorsements from potentially several different organizations.
- Arlington in comparison to neighboring towns is doing poorly in regards to affordable housing.
- The benefit of an endorsement by DTG is that it is communicated to the Board to which the article pertains when they are considering the warrant article, and it is also communicated prior to Town Meeting's consideration and vote on the article, which may influence decisions and votes.
- Will be on next month's agenda for a vote. Information about the warrant articles will be distributed prior to the next meeting. If the articles are going to be considered by the Select Board prior to DTG's next meeting, DTG will consider calling an emergency meeting to vote on endorsing the warrant articles.

It was reported that there was a positive resolution regarding the signage for the new high school construction. Brooks created a certificate recognizing his neighbor, the teen who brought this issue to DTG's attention, and presented it to him on behalf of DTG.